

IAP7 Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 FEB 2006
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February 3, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TRANSMITTAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/551,363 filed 09/28/05
Applicant: Earl Downey et al.
Title: **SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH TRIGGER CONTROL**
Group Art Unit:
Attorney Docket No. 21317.PCT.US

Sir/Madam:

Transmitted herewith for filing and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97 is a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Enclosed also are the following designated documents, as required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98:

- ☒ Form **PTO/SB/08A** list of 4 references submitted for consideration.
- ☐ Legible copies of the listed references or their relevant portions.
- ☐ Legible copies of the listed non-patent documents and foreign documents or their relevant portions are included.
- ☒ Copies of U.S. patents and/or publications are not included pursuant to the Official Gazette Notice, dated Aug. 5, 2003, waiving the requirement of 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2)(i).
- ☐ All English translations of each non-English reference, if any, within the possession, custody, control or availability of anyone designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c)).

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The following are included within the Information Disclosure Statement if applicable and as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98:

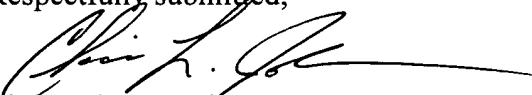
- ☐ Concise explanation of relevance of each reference not in English and unaccompanied by an English translation.
- ☐ Statement that certain listed references not enclosed are substantially cumulative of an enclosed reference.
- ☐ Statement that certain listed references not enclosed were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in prior application no. _____, filed on _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

In order to secure consideration of the items designated above, one or more of the following, if required, is also enclosed:

- ☐ Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) or (2).
- ☐ Check No. _____, which includes the amount of \$180.00 (amount in § 1.17(p)) constituting the submission fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

In the event that 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) applies and the Examiner is not satisfied that the Statement meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or in any other event remediable by a fee, please credit any over payment or charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0100 of the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


Christopher L. Johnson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 46,809

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VWN/CLJ/skp

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARKS OFFICE

ART UNIT:

EXAMINER:

APPLICANT: Earl Downey et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/551,363

FILED: 9/28/2005

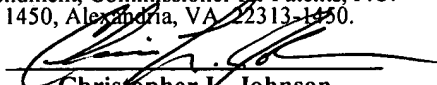
CONFRM. NO.:

FOR: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH TRIGGER
CONTROL

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

DATE OF DEPOSIT: 02/06/06

I hereby certify that this paper or fee (along with any paper or fee referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Christopher L. Johnson

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir/Madam:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form **PTO/SB/08A** which contains a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). Applicant respectfully submits that this Information Disclosure Statement is filed pursuant to:

☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b)(1) or (3), within three months of the filing date of the application, or before a first office action on the merits, whichever occurs last;

☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c), after a first office action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance, whichever occurs first, and is accompanied by either 1) a statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or 2) the fee set forth in § 1.17(p); or

☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (d), after a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, whichever occurs first, but on or before payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by both 1) a statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and 2) the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

While no representation is made that any of these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed list of references is disclosed so as to comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record believes that the references listed, together with any other references which may have been previously submitted or listed, are the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of which the undersigned is presently

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Application No. 10/551,363

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aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

☐ A legible copy of each listed U.S. Patent or publication (or relevant portion thereof) which was not previously submitted to, or cited by, the Patent Office is enclosed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

☐ A legible copy of each of the listed non-patent literature and foreign documents or their relevant portions is enclosed.

☒ Copies of cited U.S. patents and/or publications are NOT enclosed pursuant to the Official Gazette Notice, dated Aug. 5, 2003, waiving the requirement of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i).

☐ Copies of the references listed in the accompanying Form **PTO/SB/08A** and **PTO/SB/08B** are NOT enclosed because, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in application number _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

For all listed references that are not either in the English language, or accompanied by a translation into English, a concise explanation of relevance as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) is enclosed attached to each.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher L. Johnson
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VWN/CLJ/skp
Enclosure

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**